



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

22nd EUROPEAN YOUTH BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS
Piatra Mare Hotel
Poiana Brasov, Romania
8th – 18th July 2009

Rules and Regulations

INTRODUCTION AND NATURE OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 22nd European Youth Bridge Championships ('the Championships') are played under the auspices of the European Bridge League ('the EBL') at the Piatra Mare Hotel in Poiana, Brasov, Romania, commencing on Wednesday 8 July and ending not later than Sunday 18 July 2009.

The EBL is the regulating authority as defined in Law 80

The Championships consist of three series: a Junior series, a Schools series and a Girls series. Each series consists of a complete 'round robin' of matches of 20 boards, with teams playing against all other teams in the same series. The results of the matches are expressed in victory points and the team in each series with the greatest number of victory points at the completion of the 'round robin' is the winner of that series (and so on for the other placings).

The Championships are played under the International Code - Laws of Duplicate Bridge - 2007 (with the revisions approved thereafter by the WBF Laws Committee) and these Rules and Regulations, whose special provisions for these Championships supplement the International Code as required.

TIMETABLE

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Opening Ceremony | Wednesday 8th July |
| • Under 26 Open Teams Round Robin | Wednesday 8th – Saturday 18th July |
| • Under 26 Girls Teams Round Robin | Wednesday 8th – Monday 13th July |
| • Under 21 Open Teams Round Robin | Monday 13th – Saturday 18th July |
| • Closing Ceremony | Saturday 18th July |

1. ADVANCE ORGANIZATION

1.1. REGISTRATION

1.1.1. Registration of Teams

All the entries to the Championships must be submitted electronically, via the EBL website (not by email) at

<http://www.eurobridge.org/competitions/09Brasov/Information.htm>

by 1st May 2009. It is very important that this deadline is respected.

1.1.2. Registration of Players' Names

Registration of players' and NBO Delegation members' names must be sent by 15th May 2009 via the EBL website (not by email) at

<http://www.eurobridge.org/competitions/09Brasov/Information.htm>

1.2. RIGHT TO ENTER

Each member NBO, being up-to-date with the payment of its dues (including the 2009 dues) to the EBL is authorized to enter one team in the Under 26 Open Series, one team in the Under 26 Girls Series and one team in the Under 21 Open Series of the Championships. Countries must have paid the entry fee and be up-to-date with the payment of the dues to the EBL before they can participate in the Championships.

Each participating NBO must play against all the other NBOs. Entry and subsequent refusal to play will result in disqualification.

Every proposed player must, along with other criteria, satisfy the Credentials Committee that:

- a. he/she is nominated by the NBO of the country of his birth or the NBO of which such nominated player first became a member, and has not, during the current or immediately preceding calendar year, represented a different NBO in any WBF competition or any zonal or intra-zonal competition; or
- b. he/she is nominated by the NBO of the country of his citizenship or bona fide residence and has not, during the current or immediately preceding two calendar years, represented a different NBO in any WBF competition or any zonal or intra-zonal competition; and
- c. to participate in the Under 26 series a player must have been born **from the 1st January 1984 on**, to participate in the Under 21 series a player must have been born **from the 1st January 1989 on**.

By entering the Championship, both the NBO and the participants directly authorize the EBL to take pictures and film the participants during the championships, retain the same in permanent electronic form, and authorize the EBL to utilize, publicize and disseminate all or part of the material obtained without payment or acknowledgment.

1.3. TEAM MEMBERS

Each team is entitled to have four, five or six players; in addition there may be a non-playing captain and possibly other officials. Subject to the approval of the Credentials Committee, the members of any team may be changed up to the time of commencement of play on the first day of the Championship, but not thereafter. No player may participate in two series running concurrently.

If a country has submitted the names of fewer than six players, a fifth or sixth player may be added after the commencement of play on the first day only with permission of the Appeals Committee.

1.4 ENTRIES

The entry fees are € 1,000 for the Under 26 Open and € 800 both for the Under 26 Girls and the Under 21. A discount will be given to the countries who did not participate in the last three EBL Youth Team Championships held in Prague 2004, Riccione 2005 and Jesolo 2007; for these teams the entry fees are € 750 for the Under 26 Open and € 500 both for the Under 26 Girls and the Under 21.

The entry fees must be paid by Bank Transfer before or on 15th May 2009 to

BANQUE PARIBAS (Suisse)
2, Place de Hollande
CH-1211 Geneve 11 - Suisse
Account EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE Number 3097300
(IBAN) CH 46 0868 6309 7300 04978 - (SWIFT) BPPBCHGG
(to be mentioned)

1.5. DRAW FOR NUMBERS

Prior to play, an official draw for numbers in the schedule of play will be made and will be published in the programme. In the event of a variation in the number of teams participating, adjustments in the draw and schedule of play may occur. These will be notified in the programme, or if necessary at the captains' meeting.

1.6. NUMBER OF BOARDS

Each team in each series will play one match of 20 boards against every other team of the same series. All matches will be played straight through without a break.

1.7. SYSTEMS

1.7.1. Systems Policy and Systems allowed:

The EBL Systems Policy October 2007 as varied by these Regulations shall apply to the Championships. The Systems Policy is available at the Internet site:

<http://www.eurobridge.org/departments/systems/policy.html>

The Championships are classified in Category 3 of the EBL Systems Policy. Accordingly, all systems of bidding and card play may be used, with the exception of Highly Unusual Methods and Brown Sticker Conventions. No prior agreement is permitted by which a varied meaning of a call or play applies only after a question asked, a reply given, or an irregularity occurring.

Each partnership can play only one system. Both members of a partnership must adopt the same methods in the auction and in their carding.

No team may lodge more than four systems to be used by its players.

The use of system variations by one partnership is permitted provided that:

- a. full disclosure is effected;
- b. the situations in which system variations are to be used are clearly defined. For instance, a pair may use different systemic arrangements according to the vulnerability, or according to the position of the opener in relation to the dealer;
- c. the variations/deviations from the principle system do not require the development of a system of special defences. This means that the variations must be either natural or along the lines of a recognized Strong Club system.

It is not permitted to vary the use of the system against specific opponents in a manner different from the definition of use submitted in the system material.

The system to be used by each pair must have been lodged in accordance with the present Regulations (see regulation 1.6.2. below). Change of basic system or material changes in lodged systems during the Championships need approval by the Appeals Committee before they can be used.

1.7.2. Written explanation of systems:

Contestants are required to make full written disclosure of their system, and to make full disclosure of the meaning of any call or play in response to a proper question at the table from an opponent. The obligation is always on the user of a system, convention or partnership understanding to show that he has made a sufficiently clear statement of his methods.

1.7.2.1. Completion of WBF System card:

The full written disclosure is to be made by the completion in due form of the WBF System card and Supplementary Sheets as required. Participants are required to complete the Card electronically, through the WBF Convention Card Editor, a computer programme available for downloading, free of charge, at the Internet site:

<http://www.worldbridge.org/applic/wincce2.18.exe>

A Card will not be regarded as having been completed in due form unless:

- a. all sections of the Card have been accurately and legibly completed, in English, in accordance with the WBF Guide to Completion and these Rules - but in case of inconsistency between the Guide and these Rules and Regulations, the latter shall prevail;

b. the Card and Supplementary Sheets contain a clear and sufficient explanation of the system used including, without limitation, all competitive agreements and understandings;

c. the Card is of appropriate sticker colour.

d. Pairs using substantial system variations shall complete a second System card, whereby the second card will be supplementary to the first, and the first System card must be cross-referenced to it (and bear a statement under Systems Summary).

1.7.2.2. **WBF Convention Booklet:**

A reference on the Card to the name of a convention described in the WBF Convention Booklet shall be deemed to incorporate in the Card the full text of the relevant convention as described in the WBF Convention Booklet. Should any modification on the description contained in the WBF Convention Booklet be used, sufficient details of such modification must appear on the Card in the appropriate section where the subject convention is named. No modification should be written on the WBF Convention Booklet itself.

1.7.2.3. **Coloured Stickers on System card:**

A space is provided at the top right-hand corner of the first page of the Card on which a coloured sticker is to be affixed and maintained, such sticker colour to be green, blue or red, in order to signify the following systemic approaches to bidding, namely:

- green = natural
- blue = strong club/diamond, where one club/diamond is always strong
- red = artificial. This category includes all artificial systems, which do not fall under the definition of Highly Unusual Methods, other than strong club/diamond systems. Examples would be a system where one club shows either a strong one club opening or a naturally inclined or balanced one club opening; a system which contains unusual bids at the two- or three- level (other than weak-two or multi). Furthermore, all pairs using system variations except for varying one no trump opening point count ranges) shall identify their card with a red sticker.

1.7.2.4. Supplementary Sheets:

The WBF System card may be supplemented by the addition of Supplementary Sheets. The function of Supplementary Sheets is to facilitate full disclosure of systems and the relationship of material on a Supplementary Sheet to material on a Card should be clearly indicated by corresponding numbers on both the Card and the Supplementary Sheet. The number of Supplementary Sheets is limited to four A4 sized pages, typed doubled-spaced in English.

1.7.2.5. Presentation:

A partnership may lodge a comprehensive statement of its methods in English (which may be of any length) with the Appeals Committee prior to the commencement of the Championships. Any statement so lodged will be used by the Appeals Committee (and may be used by the partnership in argument before the Appeals Committee) to assist it in determining whether or not full and proper and timely information was given to the opponents as to the meaning of calls made in the auction by the partnership and of any related partnership understanding.

1.7.2.6. General Consideration:

The greater the number and complexity of bids and plays of purely conventional meaning used, the more improbable and difficult it is for opponents to recognize and therefore to understand them. The onus of disclosure is always on the user of the convention or partnership understanding and the benefit of any doubt will always be given by the Tournament Director (or Appeals Committee) to the opponents.

1.7.2.7. Distribution of systems:

Each team entered for the Championships shall lodge with the Appeals Committee the original copy of the System card and Supplementary Sheets, and additional copies as required.

Copies of all System cards and Supplementary Sheets must be handed in at least two hours before the Captains' Meetings of the corresponding series, as follows: Juniors - 50 copies; Schools - 40 copies; Girls – 30 copies. No free copying facilities will be available.

No team may apply for more than two copies of each system.

Failure to submit the System cards and Supplementary Sheets as required by this rule may result in the use of the system being prohibited, in which case the system described on the World Standard Card will have to be used. At the discretion of the Appeals Committee a further penalty of €100 may be imposed.

2. RULES FOR RUNNING THE MATCHES

2.1. COMPOSITION AND SEATING OF TEAMS

2.1.1. Designation of teams:

The team mentioned first in the schedule printed in the programme is designated as the Home Team. Their opponents are designated as the Visiting Team.

2.1.2. Line-Up procedure:

The line-ups must be submitted electronically. Both captains submit their line up without knowing the line-up of their opponents. Line-ups for each match will be displayed on the display screens designated for this, after both teams have submitted their line-ups.

Line-ups for a round have to be submitted within 15 minutes after the previous round has ended. For the first round the details will be announced at the captains' meeting.

Violations of the time schedule will be subject to VP penalties according to this scale:

- 1st delay: a written warning
- 2nd delay: 2 VP penalty
- following delays: 1 VP penalty for each delay

2.1.3. Seating of Home Team and Visiting Team:

The teams meet according to the schedule printed in the programme. The Home Team sits throughout in the North-South position in the Open Room and in the East-West position in the Closed Room. No changes in the line-up may be made unless authorized by the Tournament Director in charge. Such permission will only be given in case of illness or in exceptional circumstances.

2.1.4. Substitutes:

If for whatever reason a team is unable to produce four players, the Tournament Director is empowered to designate a substitute to complete the team. A substitute so designated does not need to be of the appropriate age or sex, or a national of the country for which he substitutes, but the Tournament Director will try to near these conditions as closely as possible. A substitute cannot be a player of another team. The decision as to whether the result of a match in which a substitute has played either partly or wholly shall stand, and what penalties, if any, may be imposed, shall be the responsibility of the Appeals Committee, which will adjudicate upon every case in which a substitute plays.

The Tournament Director, having designated a substitute, shall inform a member of the Appeals Committee on duty as soon as possible and furnish the Appeals Committee with a written report.

2.2. TIME PROCEDURE AND PENALTIES FOR SLOW PLAY

2.2.1. Start of the match:

At the beginning of each match the Tournament Director on duty will announce the time by which the round must be completed. This will be two hours and fifty minutes after the start of the matches of 20 boards including the time for dealing (if so required), system explanation and scoring procedure. Play in the Open Room between two opposing teams may start only when the players of the same teams are seated in the Closed Room.

Any team, which is not seated and ready to play at the start of a round, will be fined 1 VP and 1 VP for every 5 minutes thereafter. Players are requested to be seated 5 minutes before the start of each match. If any team has been fined for being late at the commencement of a match the fines for slow play in the same round will be based on the time at which all players were seated at the table and ready to play. Any team not seated within half an hour after starting time by its own fault forfeits the match and receives zero Victory Points. For the score of the opponent team see 2.5.1.

2.2.2. End of the match:

a. A match of 20 boards must be finished two hours and fifty minutes after the announced starting time.

If, at the end of the allocated time, play has not been concluded fines will be imposed as follows:

- up to 5 minutes late: 1 VP (shared 0.5 VP to each team if they are considered to bear equal responsibility)
 - more than 5 and up to 10 minutes late: 2 VPs (shared likewise equally 1 VP each)
 - more than 10 and up to 15 minutes late: 4 VPs (likewise)
 - more than 15 and up to 20 minutes late: 6 VPs (likewise)
 - more than 20 and up to 25 minutes late: 10 VPs (likewise)
 - more than 25 minutes: the Appeals Committee may impose a more severe penalty.
- b. If a pair should claim that the responsibility for the slow play is with their opponents, they will do so by calling the Tournament Director who will take any necessary corrective measure, including the designation of a monitor at the table for as long as he considers desirable.

c. If the two sides at the table are not considered to bear equal responsibility for the late finish the prescribed penalty in (a) will be divided between the two teams proportionately to the extent to which each side is deemed to have contributed to the overrun

d. At his discretion, the Tournament Director will normally issue warnings when teams are in danger of penalties for slow play but an absence of warning does not diminish the responsibility of the players or their liability to be fined.

e. It is a serious breach of propriety deliberately to break a Law or Rule even if one is willing to accept the prescribed penalty. Accordingly, over and above the prescribed penalties, the Tournament Director may impose an additional penalty in cases where he is of the opinion that players are indulging deliberately in unnecessarily slow play. The following regulations will be observed in putting this rule into effect:

- No such penalty will be awarded unless the Tournament Director has given previous verbal warning to the players concerned of his intention to invoke this rule.
- The penalty may be imposed only in respect of continued delay in the same session of play as that in which the verbal warning last referred to is given.
- The penalty may, at the discretion of the Tournament Director, be imposed on one only or on both of the teams involved in the match in which such a delay occurs, or, at his discretion, a larger penalty may be imposed on one team than upon the other.
- The penalty imposed will take the form of $\frac{1}{2}$ or more VPs, to be deducted from the offending team's score.

2.2.3. Penalty warning:

All penalties except for the above mentioned in §2.2.2.e. are mandatory and it requires no previous warning to the players from the Tournament Director that penalties will be applied automatically.

2.3. GENERAL RULES DURING PLAY

2.3.1. Official Language:

All players are reminded that the official language of the Championships is English and during a match the players are expected to converse in this language only, unless both teams agree to speak another language.

2.3.2. Smoking & Alcohol:

Smoking and the consumption of alcohol in the playing area, the lobby and toilets are prohibited. No player may leave the playing area in order to smoke or drink alcohol before the end of the session. Any player or team official smoking or drinking alcohol before, during or after the session in the playing area, lobby or toilets will cause his team to be fined 2 VPs, plus a fine of Euro 60. This penalty is mandatory. Constant violation of this regulation will result in the player being prohibited from playing, and in the team official not being allowed into the playing area and lobby. Failure to pay the fine will result in further sanctions in the discretion of the Appeal Committee.

2.3.3. Mobile Telephones & Electronical Devices:

Mobile telephones, pagers and other electronic devices capable of data storage and/or communication may not be brought into the playing area, the lobby and toilets. Any player or team official bringing such a device into the playing area, the lobby and toilets will cause his team to be fined 2 VPs, plus a fine of Euro 100. This penalty is mandatory. For failure to pay the fine will result in the player being prohibited from playing.

The Chief Tournament Director may, at his discretion, prohibit a player from bringing other equipment into the playing area.

The Chief Tournament Director will arrange for random checks of players. Captains and coaches to ensure that there is compliance with these prohibitions. Refusal to submit to these checks will bar the individual concerned from entry the playing area and toilet area, and from remaining there.

2.3.4. Dealing:

The same boards will be played in all matches of a round. For this reason, boards will have been duplicated in advance under the supervision of the Director of Operations. Consequently, no dealing shall take place at the table.

In the event of an irregularity resulting in dealing becoming necessary, the players will be required to deal all boards, as needed, before play begins.

2.3.5. Duplication of boards

2.3.5.1. Wherever possible, boards will be duplicated more than once so that boards are not transferred from the Open Room to the Closed Room or vice-versa.
(and see Rule 3.4.2).

2.3.5.2. Where it is not possible for the boards to be twice duplicated, the following provisions shall apply: every table in the Open and Closed Room will be designated by a letter (or number). Every match will be played at tables designated by the same letter (thus, if a team is playing at table A in the Open Room their team mates will be at table A in the Closed Room). All sets of boards will have marked on them the same letter as the table at which they are being played.

The North and East player at every table is required, at the beginning of each match, to complete a curtain card by writing the name of his country thereon, and then to place such curtain card in the pocket of the first board played corresponding to his position.

The boards will be changed between the Open and the Closed Room by board movers.

The players are required to check that the boards given to them are the correct boards, and that they are played in the correct polarity. To do this:

- a. The players should check that the letter marked on the boards corresponds with the table letter.
- b. North and East should check the curtain card completed by their respective opponents in the same seat in the other room.

2.3.6. Non-playing pairs:

Non-playing members of a team are not allowed to watch their teammates playing (except in the viewgraph theatre).

2.3.7. Finish of play:

As each table finishes playing a match, players should agree the score and leave the Room (Open or Closed) as quickly as possible, provided that at least two hours have elapsed since the start of play. Otherwise, all players must remain at the table until two hours have elapsed since the start of play. They may not watch play at other tables.

2.3.8. Leaving the Playing Room:

No player may leave the Playing Room (Open or Closed) during a match unless accompanied by a person designated by the Tournament Director. If any player leaves the Playing Room (unless as provided by §2.3.7. above) without permission of the Tournament Director, his team will be fined 2 VPs. This penalty is automatic.

2.3.9. Authorized persons in the Closed Room:

Authorized persons (exceptions by special permission of the Chairman of the Youth Committee) are:

- a. Participants assigned to play in the room;
- b. Tournament Directors;
- c. EBL Operations Director;
- d. Personnel needed to operate the tournament, including assigned scorers, monitors, board movers, etc.;
- e. President of the EBL;
- f. Chairman of the EBL Youth Committee;
- g. Chairman of the Tournament Appeals Committee;
- h. Officer-in-Charge;
- i. A maximum of two members of the Daily Bulletin staff to be named by its Editor, who will have to remain for the entire match in the Closed Room, and each of whom must watch at only one table;
- j. A maximum of four approved journalists who have been accredited by the President of the International Bridge Press Association (IBPA) or his designate, all of whom will have to remain for the entire match in the Closed Room, and each of whom must watch at only one table;
- k. Venue staff for provision of refreshments and room clean up.

2.3.10. Recording the matches:

There will be no recording at the table. Hand records will be provided by the organizers.

2.3.11. Use of system cards:

After one player has withdrawn cards from the board neither he nor his partner may consult his own System Card or Supplementary Sheet until the conclusion of play. However, the declaring side, only, may look at its own system card during the Clarification period between the last pass and the facing of the opening lead - this assists the correction of any misexplanation during the auction.

Players may look at the system of their opponents at any time during the bidding but during the play only when it is their turn to play.

At his turn to bid or play, he a player may consult the WBF Convention Booklet in respect of a call made by an opponent, but not in respect of a call made by his partner nor one made or contemplated by himself.

2.4. END OF MATCHES, RESULTS

2.4.1. International Match Points:

In all matches the difference in scores on each board is to be converted to International Match Points (IMPs).

2.4.2. Victory Points:

In each match there will be between 25 and 30 Victory Points (VPs) at stake to be apportioned between the two teams in accordance with the following scale:

Difference of IMPS	VPs	Difference of IMPS	VPs	Difference of IMPS	VPs
0 – 2	15 – 15	27 – 31	21 – 9	54 – 59	25 - 4
3 – 8	16 – 14	32 – 36	22 - 8	60 – 65	25 - 3
9 – 12	17 – 13	37 – 41	23 - 7	66 – 72	25 - 2
13 – 16	18 – 12	42 – 47	24 - 6	73 – 79	25 - 1
17 – 21	19 – 11	48 - 53	25 - 5	80 & up	25 - 0
22 - 26	20 - 10				

2.4.3. Effect of penalty points:

In no case will a penalty imposed under these Rules benefit the score of the non-offending side.

2.4.4. Scoring of results:

Match results will be available from the organization at the end of the round. No action is required by the teams.

2.4.5. Control of results:

If a team does not agree with the posted result of their match, they should inform the Tournament Director on duty.

2.4.6. Protest time:

In respect of scores and results, protest time of all matches played in a day ends at the starting time of the first match on the day following, and in respect of the final day's play two hours after the official finishing time of the final match.

The protest time concerning rulings by the TD ends 30 minutes after the round.

2.4.7. Official results:

If at the end of protest time no protest has been lodged, the posted result shall become the official result of the match, with the exception of:

- a. a pending appeal;
- b. adjustment in respect of any fines to which either team is liable;
- c. final completion by the replay of one or more boards where such a replay has been directed;
- d. an error in score discovered later by the scoring staff.

An official result may be altered only by written notice from the Chief Tournament Director, the Tournament Committee or the Appeals Committee.

2.4.8. Publication of decisions:

All decisions involving play, penalties, deals, infringement of Rules etc., will be posted at a marked location. However, the fact that a penalty has not yet been posted and that the attention of the players or captains has not yet been drawn to it, does not nullify the penalty.

2.5. BYES, RANKING, AWARDS AND TIES

2.5.1. Byes:

In the event of a team having a bye in any session it will receive 18 VPs. Countries must play against every other country against which they are drawn. A country will score zero if, by its own fault, it is

not able to play against another country. Its opponents will receive a figure arrived at by taking the average score obtained against the defaulting country by the eight teams nearest in the ranking list to themselves at the end of the Championships, or 18 VPs whichever is the greater.

In case a team is disqualified, all matches it played prior to its disqualification may, in the discretion of the Tournament Appeals Committee, be declared void and scores earned by its opponents in those matches may be canceled or varied.

2.5.2. Ranking:

The teams will be ranked according to the total number of VPs gained in the Championships.

2.5.3. Awards:

The winning team of the Under 26 Open series will be named European Under 26 Open Champions and will receive the *David Pigot Trophy* which they are entitled to retain until the next event, at the beginning of which it must be returned to the EBL, care of the NBO of the winners. The members of the first 3 teams will be awarded with the EBL medals.

In accordance with the current WBF regulation, the first five teams of the Junior series will qualify to represent the European Zone in the same series of the 2010 World Youth Championship. In the event of the withdrawal of any of the leading five teams, the sixth and, if necessary, the seventh, eighth or ninth-placed teams will be considered to have qualified for the Championship. Should more than three teams withdraw, the EBL reserves the right to make any decisions necessary concerning representation of the Zone at the World Youth Championship. In the event of the host country being invited to participate in this event and this country is among the teams qualifying, then the sixth team will be considered a qualifying team for the Championship. If the WBF modifies the regulation or the number of teams qualified from the European Zone, the EBL will modify the above accordingly.

The winning team of the Under 21 series will be named European Under 21 Champions and will receive the *Jose Damiani Trophy* which they are entitled to retain until the next event, at the beginning of which it must be returned to the EBL, care of the NBO of the winners. The members of the first 3 teams will be awarded with the EBL medals.

In accordance with the current WBF regulation, the first three teams of the Under 21 series will qualify to represent the European Zone in the same series of the 2010 World Youth Championship. In the event of the withdrawal of any of the leading three teams, the fourth and, if necessary, the fifth, sixth and seventh-placed teams will be considered to have qualified for the Championship. Should more than three teams withdraw, the EBL reserves the right to make any decisions necessary concerning representation of the Zone at the World Youth Championship. In the event of the host country being invited to participate in this event and this country is among the teams qualifying, then the fourth team will be considered a qualifying team for the Championship. If the WBF modifies the

regulation or the number of teams qualified from the European Zone, the EBL will modify the above accordingly.

The winning team of the Under 26 Girls series will be named European Under 26 Girls Champions and will receive the EBL Cup which they are entitled to retain until the next event, at the beginning of which it must be returned to the EBL, care of the NBO of the winners. The members of the first 3 teams will be awarded with the EBL medals.

European Master Points will be awarded in accordance with the EBL Master Points plan.

2.5.4. Ties:

A tie between two teams will be broken in accordance with the result of the match between those two teams. Where that match has resulted in a tie in VPs, any difference in IMPs will decide. If there should still be a tie, then the IMP quotient of all matches will be taken into consideration to break the tie. Where more than two teams have the same number of VPs the tie will be decided by the result of the matches between those teams. If one of the teams has defeated all the other teams involved, it will be ranked ahead of the others regardless of the number of VPs obtained.

The other tied teams will be ranked according to the VPs obtained in the matches between them. If a further tie should still exist then the IMP quotient of all matches will be taken into consideration to break the tie.

3. REGULATIONS SUPPLEMENTING THE LAWS

3.1. BIDDING BOXES, SCREENS, BRIDGEMATES and INTERNATIONAL CODE

Screens, bidding boxes and bridgemates will be used throughout and their use is mandatory.

3.1.1 Screens – Description of the Operation:

The North and East players sit on the same side of the screen throughout. It is North's responsibility to place the board on, and to remove the board from, the bidding tray. It is West's responsibility to adjust the screen aperture. The sequence is this: North places the board on the bidding tray. The aperture is closed (and remains so during the whole of the auction period) so that the bidding tray can just pass under it. The players remove the cards from the board.

Calls are made with the cards from the bidding box. The player places the selected call in the bidding tray, which will be visible only on the player's side of the screen. A player's first call should touch the extreme left of his own segment of the bidding tray, with subsequent

calls overlapping neatly and evenly to the right. Players should make every effort to perform these actions as quietly as possible. With screens in use a call is considered 'made' when placed on the tray and released.

After two players on the same side of the screen have made their calls, North or South (as the case may be) slides the bidding tray under the centre of the screen so as to be visible only to the players on the other side. They then make their calls in like manner and the bidding tray is slid back again. This procedure is continued until the auction is completed.

After all four players have had the opportunity to review the auction (equivalent to the right of having the auction restated) the players replace their bidding cards in their respective bidding boxes.

After a legal opening lead is faced, the screen aperture is opened the minimum necessary to permit all players to see the dummy cards and the cards played to each trick. If a defender exposes a card and, because of the screen, declarer does not see it, dummy may draw attention to the irregularity.

3.1.2 Changes to Bids Made:

A call placed and released may be changed under the Director's supervision:

- a) If it is illegal or inadmissible (in which case the change is obligatory), if screens are in use, as soon as either screenmate is aware of this;
or
- b) If it is determined by the Director to be a call inadvertently selected
or
- c) Under the provisions of Law 25. Under the provisions of Law 25A it should be noted that if a player's attention is diverted as he makes an unintended call the 'pause for thought' should be assessed from the moment when he first recognizes his error.

3.1.3 Bridgemates:

An electronic device called the Bridgemate, will be used throughout the championships to enter the results on the boards played. It is North's responsibility to enter those results and East has the obligation to check this input and to give his/her OK. Repeated violation of correct entering procedures may be subject to penalties.

3.1.4 Modification of Rectifications when screens are in use:

a) An irregularity passed through the screen is subject to the normal laws, with the following provisions:

- an inadmissible call -see Law 35 -must be corrected
- if a player infringes the law and, inadvertently (otherwise Law 23 may apply), the irregularity is passed through the screen by his screenmate the latter has accepted the action on behalf of his side in situations where the laws permit LHO to accept it.

b) Before an irregularity is passed through the screen the offender or his screenmate shall draw the Director's attention to it. Infringing calls shall not be accepted and shall be put right without other rectification (but see (a)(ii) above); any other irregularity shall be rectified and the Director ensures that only the legal auction is passed through the screen. No player on the other side of the screen shall be informed of the occurrence unless the application of a law requires it.

c) The screenmate should attempt to prevent an opening lead out of turn. Any opening lead out of turn shall be withdrawn without other rectification if the screen has not been opened. Otherwise:

- i) when the screen has been opened through no fault of the declaring side (and the other defender has not led face up) Law 54 applies.
- ii) when the declaring side has opened the screen the lead is accepted. The presumed declarer becomes the actual declarer. Law 23 may apply.
- iii) when two opening leads are faced by the defending side the incorrect lead is a major penalty card.
- iv) for a card faced by the declaring side see Law 48.

d) When an alertable call is made see Section 3.2.

e) When a player takes more than a normal time to make his call, it is not an infraction if he draws attention to the break in tempo. His screenmate, however, shall not do so.

f) If a player on the side of the screen receiving the tray considers there has been a break in tempo and consequently there may be unauthorised information he should, under Law 16B2, call the Director. He may do so at any time before the opening lead is made and the screen opened.

g) Failure to do as (f) provides may persuade the Director it was the partner who drew attention to the break in tempo. If so he may well rule there was no perceived delay and thus no unauthorised information. A delay in passing the tray of up to 20 seconds is not regarded as significant.

3.2. ALERTING

The EBL Alerting Policy applies. Any call which:

- (i) has a special or artificial meaning, or
- (ii) whose partnership meaning may not be understood by the opponents is an alertable call which must be brought to the immediate attention of the opponents through the use of the 'alert procedure'.

The 'alert procedure' is as follows:

- a) A player who makes an alertable call as defined above must alert his screen-mate, and partner must alert on the other side of the screen when the bidding tray arrives there. The alert must be made by placing the Alert Card over the last call of the screen-mate, in his segment of the bidding tray; the alerted player must acknowledge by returning the Alert Card to his opponent. A player may, by written question, ask for an explanation of an opponent's call; the screen-mate then provides a written answer.
- b) At any time during the Auction a player may request of his screen mate, in writing, a full explanation of an opponent's call. The reply is also in writing.
- c) At all times from the commencement of the Auction to the completion of play each player receives information only from his screenmate about the meanings of calls and explanations given. Questions during the play period should be in writing with the aperture closed. The screen is raised after the response has been made.

It is the obligation of the player making an alert to ensure that his screen-mate has noticed that an alert has been made. Players who collude in a method of alerting, other than the one specified here, do so at their own risk.

3.3. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

1. In the event of a dispute as to whether a player has made a correct explanation of his partner's bid (and thus his partner has made a mistaken bid) or whether he has made a mistaken explanation of the bid (see Law 75) the burden of proof is on the offending pair to establish that the explanation was correct. Such burden of proof shall not normally be

discharged unless the relevant part of the partnership's methods is covered adequately in their written explanation of system.

2. Special attention of the players is drawn to Law 40A1, which provides that mutual experience or awareness of the players may create implicit agreements which must be disclosed. Failure to disclose implicit agreements may be subject to penalty.

3.4. FOULED BOARDS

3.4.1. Replay of boards:

a. The Tournament Director shall not order a fouled board to be replayed when the final result of the match without that board could be known to a contestant. In that case, where appropriate, the VP penalties set out in Rule 3.4.3. below shall be applied and the Tournament Director shall not award an adjusted score (unless Rule 3.4.3.e. applies).

b. When Rule 3.4.1.a. above does not apply the Tournament Director shall exercise his authority under Law 6 to order that the board be redealt and replayed unless Rule 3.4.2.e. applies.

In addition to the board being redealt, where appropriate, the penalties in VP set out in Rule 3.4.3. below shall be applied.

The time required to play the redealt board shall not result in an extension in time for the purpose of Rule 2.2. unless, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, some special circumstances warrant an extension for any particular period of time.

3.4.2. Fouled boards (twice duplicated):

a. Twice duplicated boards

Where the boards have been twice duplicated - one set for the Open Room and a second set for the Closed Room – this regulation 3.4.2 shall apply.

b. Incorrect number of cards

All players must count their cards before looking at them. If a hand does not consist of 13 cards, the Tournament Director must be called immediately to correct the mis-duplication.

c. Penalty for mis-counting

If any player looks at his cards before counting and has 14 or more cards, the board may be considered 'fouled'. The offending side will be penalized $\frac{1}{2}$ VP for each such occasion.

d. Replay of fouled board

If a board is 'fouled' under rule 3.4.2.c, the Tournament Director shall see if he can apply Law 13 to allow play to continue. If he cannot allow play to continue, he shall exercise his

Law 6 authority whenever lawful and reasonably possible to order the board to be re-dealt and re-played.

e. Mis-duplication

Players are required after the play to return all 13 cards to the correct quarter of the board. If after the round a team alleges a board has been mis-duplicated (so that the hand is different in the Open Room from the Closed Room) the relevant board in the Open Room and the Closed Room will be checked. If it is ascertained, on the basis of cogent evidence, that a board has been mis-duplicated the result on that board will be cancelled. No re-dealt board will be played.

3.4.3. **Boards once duplicated:**

If boards are shared between two tables, supplementary regulations will be published, and Law 86 may apply.

4. ETHICS

4.1. GENERAL

4.1.1. Player's obligations:

The privilege of representing one's country as a player in a European Bridge Championship is not an inalienable right conferred by selection or acquired as the result of successful performance in trials preceding the event; rather it is dependent upon the display of good sportsmanship, correct deportment and above all irreproachable ethics.

In the absence of penalties expressed in IMPs or VPs, because participants no longer appear as private individuals but as representatives of their country, observance of the highest standard becomes the more imperative. Players are therefore urged to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the Proprieties.

Players, captains and teams are expected to accept the decisions of the Tournament Directors, Appeals Committee and Tournament Officials in a sportsmanlike manner.

It is a breach of the proprieties to overtly display any political or religious statement or object which might cause offence to others.

Violations may result in the suspension or disqualification.

4.1.2. Looking at partner:

Players are requested not to look at their partners during play of a hand. The object is to avoid any suggestion of unethical communication.

4.1.3. Discussions:

As a matter of propriety and in order to save time, players are enjoined during the match, to avoid discussion with partner or argument with opponents. In case of dispute a player's proper recourse is to the Tournament Director or, subject to the limitations in Section 5.1, to the Captain of the team.

4.1.4. Partnership understandings:

Under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, a player is not allowed to make a call or play based on a partnership understanding unless the opposing pair may reasonably be expected to understand its meaning, or unless the use of such a call or play has been fully disclosed on the Official System card. Detailed explanation may be deferred until the call of play is actually made.

Psychic bids are permissible, but at all times should have the same element of surprise for partner as for the opponents; they may not be the subject of undisclosed partnership understandings.

4.1.5. Leaving the table during the bidding and play:

No player may leave the table during the bidding. Dummy may leave the table after the opening lead has been made with the consent of his screen-mate.

4.1.6. No 'time-out':

A player may leave the table between hands to go to the lavatory or to get a (non-alcoholic) drink. But no partnership may leave the table together and no partnership may have any discussion during the match except through the screen aperture (between hands) in the presence of their opponents.

5. NON-PLAYING CAPTAINS

5.1. RIGHTS OF A NON-PLAYING CAPTAIN

A non-playing captain may act in order:

- a. to protect the rights of his team if he believes that they have been jeopardized in any way;
- b. to curtail unnecessary discussions;
- c. to forbid a member of his team to make a protest;
- d. to restrain misbehaviour on the part of any member of his team;
- e. to require that a Tournament Director is called to the table;

- f. to intimate his own intention of making a protest or an appeal on behalf of his team in reference to any matter in respect of which his players have not done so;
- g. to ensure that a non-playing pair in a particular match is not allowed to watch its teammates in play.

5.2. CONVERSATION AT THE TABLE

During the course of a round of play, whether play is actually taking place at the moment or not, a non-playing captain should avoid addressing members of his team at the table in any but the English language or a language understood by the opponents; if he wishes to converse in any language other than English, he must first seek the consent of the opponent, which should be given where reasonably possible. If any difficulty arises, the non-playing captain should speak only through a member of his team who is able to translate for the benefit of the opponents.

A non-playing captain may not converse with the members of his team (or their opponents) once any player has withdrawn a hand from the board on the table until all hands have been replaced in the board, except for the purposes listed in §5.1.

5.3. SUBSTITUTE CAPTAINS

The captain may appoint a deputy or substitute who may not be a player. Such appointment shall be effective for the whole of the match.
The permission of the Chief Tournament Director shall be required if the person appointed is not the team's designated coach or team manager.

6. VU-GRAPH

6.1. OBLIGATION TO PLAY

When Vu-graph is in use, any team must play in the Vu-graph Room when and as often as required.

6.2. ACCESS TO VUGRAPH ROOM

Access to the Vu-graph room is limited to the four players, the Vu-graph operators on duty and those persons (except non-playing captains, journalists and Bulletin representatives) authorized to be in the Closed Room (see Rule 2.3.9.)

6.3. PLAYING TIME

1. The rules for time procedure and penalties for slow play (§2.2.) will apply to the players in the Closed Room of the Vu-graph.

2. The rules for time procedure and penalties for slow play (§2.2.) will apply to the Open Room of the Vu-graph with the following variations:
 - a. the two hours and fifty minutes period is calculated by the Tournament Director from the time the first board is made available for play at the table;
 - b. the Tournament Director may add such further times as is in his opinion clearly attributable to delay in delivery of hands to the room or to the operation of Vu-graph.

7. APPEALS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

7.1. APPEALS

7.1.1. Procedure:

A team, through its captain, may appeal against the ruling of a Tournament Director, provided that the appeal is made within 30 minutes after the end of the round.

Notification of intention to appeal must be given to one of the Tournament Directors. In the first instance such notification does not need to be in writing, but it should be committed to the official Appeals form as soon as is practicable with the help of the Tournament Director who made the ruling and the form, when completed, should be given to the Tournament Director who will hand it to the member of the Appeals Committee on duty.

The Appeals form must be filled out completely and correctly.

The Tournament Director states the facts (board identification and as relevant, the auction and/or play), what happened at the table, his ruling and who made the appeal. Each team represented by its captain may add its remarks to the explanation of the Tournament Director and may state whether they want to make an oral statement to the Appeals Committee.

The Appeals form must be signed by the Tournament Director and the captains of both teams involved. After signing, no corrections are allowed.

Once lodged, an appeal may be withdrawn only by the captain of the appellant team.

A deposit of €30 must accompany each appeal. This deposit will be returned if the Appeals Committee determines the appeal to be without merit. If the appeal is rejected this deposit will be returned if the appeal is judged to be well founded, but not otherwise.

One or more of the team appealing (players or captain) must present himself at the hearing of the appeal. If no one from the team appealing presents himself at the hearing the Appeals Committee shall dismiss the appeal and the deposit shall be forfeited.

The non-appealing team is entitled to attend, to make statements and to answer questions. Failure to attend may cause difficulties for the Appeals Committee to explore the facts and may therefore disadvantage that team's case (a player whose actions the committee may wish to explore should not assume that the committee will readily accept explanations by captain or partner in relation to thought processes, state of mind, or the like).

7.1.2. Practices in the Appeals Committee:

On receipt of the duly completed Appeals form as provided in §7.1.1. the Tournament Director will, as soon as possible, inform any member of the Appeals Committee on duty, who will advise the Tournament Director at what time the Appeals Committee will convene to hear the appeal.

The Appeals Committee will be entitled to interview and to take into account the statements or representations of any person and any documentary matter that it considers may assist the Committee to reach a decision.

The WBF Code of Practice has been adopted by the EBL, subject to the 2007 Laws of Duplicate Bridge, and applies in the procedures and decisions of the Appeals Committee unless directly in conflict with a specific statement in these Rules and Regulations.

The verdict of the Appeals Committee will be written on the Appeals form and handed to the Tournament Director for him to notify the teams concerned.

7.2. APPEALS COMMITTEE

7.2.1. Composition of the Appeals Committee:

All appeals against the ruling of Tournament Directors shall be dealt with by an Appeals Committee constituted by members appointed by the EBL President.. The Chairman of the EBL Youth Committee and the Chairman of the Tournament Appeals Committee may, before the commencement of or during the tournament, appoint additional members of the Appeals Committee who shall have full voting powers.

The President of the EBL is automatically a member of the Appeals Committee.

Three members of the Appeals Committee form a quorum. Any member of the Appeals Committee whose national team is concerned shall abstain from taking part.

7.2.2. Investigations:

The Appeals Committee may at its discretion investigate any matter touching upon or arising out of the Laws or these Rules, which may arise during the course of the Championships, irrespective of the way in which such a matter has been brought to its

attention, either by way of an appeal against a Tournament Director's ruling or on its own initiative or otherwise howsoever.

7.2.3. Judgement:

As Law 93C3(a) allows, EBL has assigned to the Appeals Committee the responsibility to deal finally with any appeal, and all parties are bound by its decisions.

The Appeals Committee may confirm, reverse, vary or modify the findings or decisions of a Tournament Director (except as provided in Law 93 B 3), and remove, increase or vary any penalty which may have been imposed, or substitute a different class of penalty or an adjusted score.

On an investigation made for reasons other than an appeal the Appeals Committee may impose such penalty on any party or direct that such an adjusted score be entered for any boards as it shall deem proper.

In any case, whether on an appeal or otherwise, where circumstances are considered by the Committee to justify or require it, the Appeals Committee may recommend to the EBL Executive Committee (represented by its present members) to suspend a player or players for one or more sessions or for the remainder of the current Championships or disqualify a team. This rule does not in any way affect the power of suspension given to the Chief Tournament Director under the Laws.

8. JOURNALISTS AND SPECTATORS

8.1. JOURNALISTS

8.1.1. Application of these Rules and Regulations:

All Journalists are invitees of the EBL and their presence at the Championships is subject to their behaving in a correct, ethical and sportsmanlike manner and to them observing these Rules and Regulations, and Law 76, to which they are subject.

8.1.2. Accreditation:

All Journalists present at the Championships must be jointly accredited by the Credentials Committee of the EBL and by the proper Committee or Official of the International Bridge Press Association (IBPA). In the event of disagreement over accreditation between the EBL and the IBPA, the view of the EBL shall prevail.

8.2. SPECTATORS

8.2.1. Application of these Rules and Regulations:

All Spectators are considered invitees of the EBL and their presence at the Championships is subject to their behaving in a correct, ethical and sportsmanlike manner

and requires their conformity with these Rules and Regulations and Law 76, to which they are subject, and with the instructions of the Tournament Director.

8.2.2. Entry in the Open Room:

Entry in the Open Room is allowed during the first two hours of each round. Thereafter no spectators will be admitted, nor will spectators who have left the room for whatever reason be re-admitted.

8.2.3. Watching at the table:

No more than eight spectators (including team officials and journalists) shall be permitted at any one table. (Where 'pits' are in use a large number of spectators shall be permitted. The number permitted shall be determined by the Chief Tournament Director.)

Spectators may watch at only one table and must be seated. . The observance of this regulation is particularly important when pre-duplicated boards are in play. Any spectator who attempts to watch at a second table will be required to leave the Open Room and, at the discretion of the Appeals Committee, may be subject to greater penalties.

Spectators are requested to remain quiet and must refrain from addressing the players or otherwise distracting their attention.

Looking at two hands is forbidden. If this opportunity should arise by accident, no special interest must be shown. Sitting in a position so as to see both sides of the screen is forbidden.

9. OFFICIALS IN CHARGE

9.1. OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

9.1.1. Identification:

The Officer-in-Charge, whether a member of the Executive, the Youth, the Appeals or the Tournament Committee, is appointed by the Chairman of the Tournament Committee to assist the Tournament Directors with advice regarding the observance of the Rules and Regulations and to act as a representative of the EBL.

9.1.2. Functions:

All important decisions involving fines should be verified by him and reported to the Tournament Committee. The Officer-in-Charge will ensure that only authorized persons are permitted to enter the Closed Room.

9.2. TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

9.2.1. General duties of Tournament Directors:

The Tournament Director's responsibilities are in the main covered by Law 81. All Tournament Directors will follow the WBF Code of Practice wherever its recommendations are relevant. A Co-Chief Tournament Director may act with the powers of and in place of the Chief Tournament Director in any matter.

Tournament Directors will seek to ensure the correct position and polarity of players at the table. The responsibility for correct position and polarity remains with the players.

The Tournament Director will be required to complete a form for each round and for each room showing starting times at all tables and noting late starts and finishes and all other incidents.

Before the beginning of the following round, all important incidents must be reported by the Tournament Director to the Appeals Committee and any penalties or changes in scores must be reported in addition to the Officer-in-Charge.

The Tournament Director is advised to verify with the Chief Tournament Director all penalties that have been automatically applied in accordance with the Laws or Rules before advising the Officer-in-Charge.

9.2.2. Adjusted score:

The Tournament Director's attention is drawn in particular to Law 12A1, which states: 'The Director may award an assigned adjusted score when he judges that these Laws do not provide indemnity to the non-offending contestant for the particular type of violation of law committed by an opponent'. The interpretation of this Law should not only be that the Director may award, but should award an adjusted score.

9.2.3. Slow play penalty:

As soon as practicable after imposing or waiving a penalty under 2.2. the Tournament Director must inform a member of the Appeals Committee and prepare a written memorandum setting out the relevant facts and circumstances giving rise to his decision to invoke the rule and the penalties that he has imposed. The memorandum must be given by the Tournament Director to the member of the Appeals Committee on duty at the first opportunity.

9.2.4. Significant Rules and Laws:

The attention of the Tournament Director is drawn to §2.2.2. of the present Rules and Regulations.

The Tournament Directors are particularly requested to enforce Laws 7, 9, 43 and 65 and the attention of all players has been drawn to the special rules relating to slow play (see §2.2.2.).

The attention of the Tournament Directors is drawn to the fact that a player who exposes his hand and makes a claim or concession in relation to the remaining tricks is required forthwith to make an adequate statement of his intended line of play. The Tournament Directors are instructed that a player must not be allowed to derive benefit from any inference which, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, the player might have drawn from the fact that the claim is contested.

9.2.5. Infringement of Proprieties:

In a case of any alleged infringement of the Proprieties any Director who has been summoned to adjudicate may, if he sees fit, direct that the hand be played out without further ruling by him on the merits of the case and refer the question of whether such an infringement did or did not take place and of the penalty (if any) to be imposed to the Appeals Committee for decision.

9.2.6. Appeal procedure:

No appeal will be considered by the Appeals Committee unless presented by the Tournament Director in the form as described in §7.1.1.

10. DRESS CODE

The EBL has a policy which seeks to encourage Federations to provide Teams, participating in the European Championships, to be dressed in appropriate uniforms which incorporate a badge or emblem identifying the country those players are representing.

All players, captains and coaches of the participating teams are required to wear T-shirts, polo shirts, shirts or blouses that are of the same colour and contain the Federation's logo.

Team members must be supplied with sufficient changes of clothing to ensure that they look smart and presentable at all times.

If sweaters, cardigans and sweatshirts are used they must be of the same colour and carry the Federation's logo.

Any player, captain or coach not respecting the dress code into the playing area will receive a warning on the first occasion and a subsequent breach will result in that team being fined of 2 V.P., plus a fine of Euro 60. This penalty is mandatory. Failure to pay the fine will result in that person being prohibited from entering the playing area.

Everyone entering the playing rooms is obliged to wear the official identification badge provided by the organisation. In case of loss, the organisation will provide a duplicate badge at a cost of € 5,00.

11. REGISTRATION AND PUBLICATION

Both the NBOs and the participants, with the subscription to the Championship, directly authorize the EBL to take pictures and film the participants during the championships, registration of the previous mentioned with technological equipment, and authorize the EBL to utilize, publicize and divulgate, also to commerce, all or part of the material obtained, renouncing expressly to any request or pretence, of any nature, type, with reference to it.

12. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE E.B.L.

12.1. AUTHORITY OF THE EBL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of the EBL reserves the authority to modify or supplement these Rules and Regulations.

12.2. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EBL

The EBL has scheduled these Championships to occur at a particular time and place in accordance with an agreement entered into between the EBL and the host NBO. However, the E.B.L. makes no warranty to any participating NBO, team, pair or person that these Championships will take place as scheduled and accepts no responsibility for any loss or expense arising should it not does so.